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Frauke Kraas is Chair of Human Geography and Head of the Institute of Geography at the University of Cologne. She teaches classes on urban and social geography, global change and risks in mega cities. Her wider research includes topics related to mega urbanization, global change and urban sustainability, as well as governance, informality, the concept of risk, and urban health, with a regional focus on Southeast Asia (Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia), India and China. Other research interests lie in the areas of social, cultural and ethnic geography.

Frauke's current research projects focus on informal migrant communities and health strategies as well as regional agility and upgrading in the Pearl River Delta/China, water and waste water related issues in Delhi/India, risk governance in Mumbai/India and Jakarta/Indonesia, health transition through global change in Pune/India as well as development dynamics and transformational change of Yangon/Myanmar and Bangkok/Thailand. She has contributed to the fields of urban studies and human geography with 256 publications, including 15 books, 75 peer-reviewed articles and 166 further publications.

Frauke is Speaker of the Priority Program "Megacities – mega-challenge: Informal dynamics of global change" of the German Research Council (DFG; SPP 1233), and she is a member of several academies and committees, including the Academia Europaea (European Academy), the German Academy of Science Leopoldina, the Austrian Academy of Sciences and the Executive Scientific Steering Committee (ESSC) of the International Human Dimensions Program (IHDP) core project "Urbanization and Global Environmental Change" (UGEC). She is also Chair of the MegaCity TaskForce of the International Geographical Union (IGU), Vice-President of the GeoUnion Alfred Wegener Foundation and Chair of "ForUm" – Southeast Asian-German Expert Network: Forum of Urban Future in Southeast Asia and President of the German-Thai Society.

Frauke holds a PhD (1991) and a Habilitation (PhD. II; 1996) in Geography from the Universities of Münster and Bonn where she worked as Research Fellow and Assistant Professor from 1987 to 2000. She was awarded the Gerhard-Hess-Award in 1997 and the Heisenberg Postgraduate Scholarship in 1998, both of the German Research Council (DFG). Since 2000, Frauke has been Head of the Institute of Geography and Chair of Human Geography at the University of Cologne, Germany.